



AN
INFORMATION
to all good Christians vvith-
in the kingdome of ENGLAND,
from the Noblemen, Barrons,
Borrows, Ministers, and Commons of the
kingdome of Scotland, for vindica-
ting their intentions and actions from the
unjust callumnies of their enemies.



EDINBURGH,
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INFORMATION

to all good Christians within
in the Kingdom of Scotland
from the Noblemen, Barons,
Bishops, Knights and Clergy of
Kingdom of Scotland, for sending
their petition and supplication
right honorable of the same.



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AN INFORMATION

To all good Christians, &c.



THE work of reformation now renewed, and farre advanced in this Kingdome, hath in the whole progresse, met with all the opposition which the subtil malice of Romes emissaries our adversaries could plotte. But God hath hither-to disappointed all their intentions, and turned *Achisophels* wisedome into folly. And now when they cannot beat down the walls of *IERUSALEM*, they labour to undermine it with calumnies, according to the damnable maxime, & *calumniare audacter, semper aliquid harebit*, & like *Tobias*, *Sanballat*, and such like, will not be wanting to oppose mightily the building of *Ezra* and *Nehemiah*, by saying to the King, *Why is the rebellious citie builded?* The same steps are now traced by the authours of novations, in this Church, who taking the advantage of their opportunity (which we want to our great regrate) and being greatly assisted and stirred up by some of their own coat, perniciously

ously and popishly affected, do there-upon presume to whisper unto his sacred Majestie, and spread abroad in the neighbour Kingdome of *England*, most untrue, and damnable aspersions, (by and attouer the particulars layed to our charge, in the Proclamation, 18 of *December*, which are largely answered in our Protestation already published) venting with equall impudence and malice, that we do only pretend religion, but do intend to shake off the most lawfull yoke of authoritie, by changing the forme of civill government; to invade our neighbour kingdome of *England*, and enrich our selves by the spoils thereof. Although our conscience bear us testimonie against these untruths, and make us think charitably, that no men understanding rightly Religion and Policie, will grant belief unto these aspersions, forged against the bodie of a Church and Kingdome; yet being certainly informed, that the authours of our novations and the arch-enemies of reformation, have laboured to poyson his Majesties sacred Ears with those imputations, and dispersed the same with open mouth among the subjects of *England*, we were forced to vindicate our innocencie and wype away all impressions which those challenges might make in the believe of any, first by our Supplication given into the Lords of secret Councell 31. of *January*, and now by this our answer and publick declaration to the world: whereby wee take G O D. to witnesse, that Religion is the only subject, conscience the motive, and reformation the aime of our designs: For attaining whereof, wee have never strayed from the humble and loyall way of petitioning his

his Majestie for legall redresse ; but doe yet, according to our bound duetie, beg the consummation of our happie beginnings, by the holding of the Parliament, for the ratification of the acts of the Assembly indicted by his royall authority; and as we have often hereto-fore professed in our Supplications, religiously sworn in our solemne Covenant with God Almighty, and publickly declared before God and men in all our Protestations, made in the view of heaven and earth, that we had never the least intention to cast off our duetifull obedience unto his Majesties most lawfull authoritie ; So we do hereby renew the same, and solemnly declare, that our loyall breasts have never harboured any thought against our gracious Sovereigne, his Person, and government, to whom wee daily and earnestly pray the KING of Kings, to grant long and happie reigne over us; and when he shall bee crowned with immortality, that there may not want one of his Seed rightly to rule us, and to sit upon his throne, so long as the Sun and Moone indureth. For wee acknowledge that hee is the Lords Vicegerent ; swaying the Scepter of this Land, transmitted to him, by succession, of so many royall Ancestours, as none other King in the world can parallell the same, and none other Nation compare with us in the glorie of Antiquitie, under that lawfull subjection, to one Line of native borne Princes : which we will never deface, by any unnaturall and impious cogitation against the Lords Anointed ; but heartily wish that shame and confusion may be printed upon the face of his enemies, and that wee might bee happie in the occasion to expose
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our lives and fortunes to the greatest hazard, for maintenance of the Person and authoritie of our dread Sovereigne, and increase of his honour. *Let mercie and truth preserve the King.*

As for our intention to invade *England*, we attest the everliving God, who is conscious of our most secret thoughts, that we never had any such designe or motion, to offend or wrong in the smallest measure any other Nation, much lesse our neighbour Kingdome, living in one Yle, under one King, with as little controversie, and as much affection, as hath been betwixt two Nations once at variance, but now happily reconciled, and tyed together by most strait bands, which we desire rather to increase then diminish by any act of unjust hostility. And albeit we be confident that the improbabilitie of this challenge, will stop the way of all credite to it; yet to confound these reporters in their malice, we will shortly relate our regrats and fears, our desires and resolutions, with that freedome and sinceritie, which may evidence our brotherly respect to the subjects of *England*, and controll the false surmises of intentions against them: we regrave together with our dear Christian brethren of our neighbour Nation, that we should have so evident and sensible experiences of the dangerous plots set afoot, and intertained by the Church-men of greatest power in *England*, for introducing novations in Religion, by corrupting the Doctrine, changing the Discipline, daily innovating the externall worship of God, preaching publicly, and maintaining points of *Arminianisme*, and heads of poperie, defending and advancing preachers and professors

fessours of that judgement, and allowing books stuf-
 fed with that doctrine, syning, confyning, and ba-
 nishing all such as in conscience of their duetie to
 God, labour to oppose the doctrine, discipline,
 or worship of the Kirk of *Rome*, by their inroaching
 and usurping upon the Kings Majesties prerogative,
 tyrannizing over the conscience, goods, and estates,
 of persons of all qualities within that Kingdome:
 And not being content to keep within their own pre-
 cinct, did induce, assist, and incourage the pretended
 Arch-bishops, and Bishops of this Kingdome, to
 presse not only a conformitie of this Church, with
 that of *England*, in matter of ceremonie, but also
 with the church of *Rome*, in the points most sub-
 stantially erronious, as appeareth by these books of
 common prayer and canons, found to bee a masse of
 popish superstition, doctrine, and tyrannie, which
 was confessed to have been first plotted, then cor-
 rected and interlined in *England*, sent down to their
 associats the pretended Arch-bishops, and Bishops
 of this Kingdome, to bee printed and pressed upon
 the whole Church here, without order or consent, as
 the only forme of divine worship and government of
 the Church, to make us a leading case to *England*:
 required by their letters, Stats-men, Noble-men,
 and Burghs, to further the advancement thereof, per-
 swaded his gracious Majestie, to declare these books,
 full of popish superstition, yet to bee free of it,
 and to be fit means of edifying this Church: caused
 his Majestie prohibit the lawfull meetings, and hum-
 ble supplications of his Subjects, under pain of trai-
 son, and to esteeme of his good Subjects as of trea-

yours

tours and rebels, for discovering this wicked plot, complaining thereof, and for their renewing of their nationall Covenant with GOD, and their alledgance to his Majestie, to threaten them by publick proclamation, with utter exterminion, and ruine, hath by their calumnies, moved his Majestie to discharge under the pain of treason, the sitting of our free generall Assembly, indicted by his Majestie, after so many supplications, and to ingadge his royall word of a Prince, to defend all disobeyers of the Church, to threaten and prepare for an invasive war against his most ancient loyall native Kingdomes, to distrust all our supplications, oathes, and declarations, ingenuously and humbly made, and thereby they have indeavoured so farreas in them lyes to alienate his Majesties heart from his people, and estrange their due bound affections from him, if it were possible; and in end for the full accomplishment of their wickednes (as we are informed) have made his Majesty follow the advice & counsell of professed papists, and to intrust them with the chiefe charges of the armes and armies now preparing for the threatned invasion of this Kingdome, and still intend to raise jealousies in the body of the one Kingdome against the other, and so to commit them together, which we beseech GOD to prevent, and hope it shall bee above their malice: The LORD opening the eyes of our Sovereigne, and of our neighbour nation, to discover that treacherie, whereby nothing is intended but to joyn the two Kingdomes in bloody warre, that so reformed Religion may be extinguished and poperie introduced, which then may be easily effectuate, when both sides
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are weakned, and so may bee the more easily suppressed by the papists, having all power and charge in their hand, being already too strong in *England*, and encouraged with the expectation of *forraine* helpe, ready to accept that advantage, so much prejudiciall to his Majesties honour, power and manifold declarations, for the maintenance of the reformed Religion, whereof he is the defender. We have also reason to regrave, that any within that Kingdome should give more credite to false calumnies, cunningly invented to foment their jealousies, and make them prepare for invading us their brethren, then unto our solemne Protestations, Supplications, Declarations, and Covenant with God himselfe. Yet we are fully confident, that such are only drawn there-unto, partly through the mis-information of our adversaries, and partly for lack of cleare information, concerning our most loyall and Christian proceedings: And therefore doe most heartily wish, they may with wisdom and charity, suspend any further giving credit to things of that kinde, till they may have occasion to receive full information of the truth: And we regrave that any should think the standing of Episcopacie in the Church of *Scotland*, an just ground for invading of, and making war against this Nation, and consequently to raise up the old nationall blood-shed and quarrels, which are now happily changed into a sweet peaceable conjunction of hearts and affections, seeing Episcopacie in this Church, is contrare to our ancient reformation, confession of Faith, and oath of this Church and Kingdome, whereby that government was abjured which

cannot reasonably offend any other state or Church, who may bee ruled by their own laws and warrant, but as in every matter which falleth in deliberation to be put in execution, Iustice should be the mover and efficient, and benefit either in profit or honour useth to bee the end; So especially in this weightie businesse, it should be well pondered, if this act of invading us by warre, for keeping our oath to GOD, and obeying the lawfull constitutions of our Church and Kingdome, be just upon the part of the invader, or if the benefit of re-establishing Bishops upon us will recompense the losse of so much Christian blood, & hazard of dissension & war, whereof the event dependeth upon the LORD of hosts: but it is obvious to every mans consideration, that this war is by our adversaries intended for another end, & hath a more deep dangerous reach: other wise the Prelates if either good Christians or patriots would rather quit their Minion ambition, and worldly pompe, then ingadge two Kingdomes, with the hazard of true Religion.

And that none may suspect the sinceritie of our intentions, the lawfulnessse of our proceedings, or the truth of our declarations, and accusations against the enemies of our reformation and peace, wee are able, and wish to have occasion to justify the same before the world: for unlesse we should have closed our own light, and resisted the known will of GOD, acknowledged, subscribed, and sworne by his Majestie, and our predecessours, in a solemne Covenant with GOD, and so often confirmed and ratified by acts of this church and kingdome, since the reformation, wee could not omit any thing which we have
done

done. And albeit we be an Church and Kingdome, as free, ancient, and independent, as any other in the world: yet for clearing the minde of our neighbour nation, from all mis-information, and mis-construction of our intentions and proceedings, and to verifie the lawfulnessse, and absolute necessity of our actions, and acts of the late Assembly, we do assure our selves, that if the Estates and Parliament of *England*, were conveened, and the whole progresse of this businesse faithfully represented to them, they would without doubt be so farre from censuring or condemning what we do, that they would rather bee moved to become petitioners to his sacred Majestie on our behalfe, and approve of the equitie and loyaltie of all our proceedings in this cause: And therefore in the mean time, wee intreat that no true English heart entertain any jealousies of us, who are confident of the innocencie of our proceedings and intentions, free hither-to of all blemishes against our Sovereigne or neighbour nation, as wee do beg the occasion of manifesting the same to them, and to all the world, as we have upon the knowledge of these mis-reports of us, cleared our selves of any such intention by our great oaths every one to another at our most frequent meetings.

The obtaining of this our so peaceable and just desire, shall not only bee comfortable to us, their Christian brethren, serving as a farther tye to unite our affections in time to come, and stirre us up to poure our heartie prayers to God on their behalfe, but without all question, the righteous Iudge of all the world, shall make you reap the fruit thereof one

day, and who knoweth how soone.

In the meantime our care shall bee upon all occasions to make it appear clearly to all the world, how farre it hath alwayes been (and by the grace of God ever shall bee) from our intention first or last, to offer the least act of hostilitie to our neighbour Kingdome, except in so farre as we shall bee necessitat in our own defence: and though (as God forbid) we should be forced thereunto, yet shall we remaine unwilling to conceive things of that kinde, to flow from the body of that Kingdome, with whom we intend no nationall quarrell, neither minde to wrangle with them, except in the case of invasion from them, but rather that this sturre hath been contrived and set forward by some ill affected persons, both kingdomes, with whom only our question is, & to whom alone we may justly intend according to their desert, as men who are set to ingadge both kingdomes in so bloudie a warre for their own base ends: and although a party raised from among our selves, fomented, and maintained from abroad, from whence we finde the sinews of that body within our selves to bee derived and maintained, may justly seeme to irritate, yet the vanitie and weaknesse of our intestine adversaries, even in this case of offence, is so farre from making us take fire, without manifest hostilitie offered, or ingadging us in any violent course that may interrupt the brotherly love and concord of these two Kingdoms, or blemish our holy profession in the least degree, as we are confident, no malicious misreports of our common adversaries, will induce our deare brethren to quarrell with us, for seeking

seeking to enjoy our Religion in puritie and our laws and liberties, according to the fundamentall constitutions of our Church and state, when we are so well affected to them, as we are truly sensible of their grievous burthens, & intolerable sufferings from the tyrannie of their hierarchie, and the fearfull bondage they underlye from the wicked counsel of their Clergie, suggested from Rome, and producing so dangerous innovations both in Religion and Policie.

This sincere manifestation of our reall intentions, wee finde our selves obliged, to publish for satisfying all good Subjects in our neighbour nation, being confident they are as desirous to be confirmed in their good opinion of us, and so to be armed against all slanders and calumnies of those that indeavour the finall overthrow and utter exterminion of the Kingdome of Christ Iesus from this whole Island: wherof we pray God, to avert the danger, & to grant us peace and puritie, which is the height of our desire: for procuring whereof we shall employ none other weapons (except we be enforced) but fasting and prayer to God Almighty and humble supplications to our gracious Sovereigne.

Revised according to the ordinance of the generall Assembly, by me M^r. A. Ihonstoun Clerk thereto:

Edinb. 4 of Feb.

1639.

F I N I S.